



February 1997

Volume XXIV Issue 2

Jim's Journal

Volume I



QST, QST. Greetings from your President for the year of 1997. The last time I held this post was a two-year stretch ending in 1991. During that period the Summit city Hamfest and the W9TE ATV. repeater was born. Most everyone would have to agree the Club has been doing a fine job for it's members during the last six years, I hope we can continue that momentum for another year. On a sad note, Cliff, N9NKB suffered a heart attack on January 20, 1997. Due to his diabetes, treatment has had complications. I have visited with Cliff however, and he isn't in any pain and is hoping to get out of the hospital soon. Cliff certainly has been a positive force for the Club, spending innumerable hours helping the Club in his many duties, especially in his long tenure as President. Now it's time for us to help him, his wife Kim, and the rest of his family. Give them your warmth, enthusiasm, understanding and prayers to help them cope with new challenges of Cliff's diabetes.

As usual the January Auction was fun for every one who attended. I think every one got a bargain or two. The grab bags were especially interesting, one of them had a \$5.00 bill in it. The attendance was down due to the very Arctic like weather that night. Our thanks goes out to Jerry Bailey N9SCJ, who auctioneered that night and is a professional Auctioneer by trade.

The Club's 146.94 repeater has some new enhancements, The 400 MHz. link with the 147.18 repeater in Angola is now operational. Our thanks to Scott N9VZJ, Walt N9AVR, and Carl N9NRO, and others who made this all possible. At this time I believe all our repeaters are up and operating normally! (knock on wood)

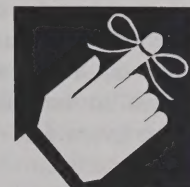
Next month's meeting, which is February 21st Starting at 8:00 p.m. will be held at a different location, The Ft. Wayne Water filtration Plant. Go North on Spy Run past the Old Fort, turn right on Griswold Ave. After passing through the gates turn right. Go to the first new building on the left. There is lots of parking. After the Club's business meeting we will be briefed by Jeannie (Sugar) Baker on the

**February Meeting:
Friday
February 21, 1997
8:00pm
The Fort Wayne
Water Filtration Plant
on Griswold Ave.**

filtration plant's operation and then led on a tour of the inner workings. This is an excellent opportunity to learn something about the water we drink and see your hard-earned money at work, don't miss it!

This wraps up first edition of "Jim's Journal", at the end of each of these futile attempts at journalism, I will pass on a bit of wisdom. So here's this Month's load: Never wrestle with a pig. You both get dirty and the pig loves it.

73's Jim



Reminder Dues for 1997

January Minutes

The January meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 17 January 1997. The meeting started at 19:30 hours and was initially lead by outgoing President Cliff Shreve. About 35 people were in attendance.

As the Club Auction was the main item of business, in the interest of time, there was no Treasurer's report nor were the Minutes read.

Ernie Bacon had been elected President at last October's meeting. Unfortunately, due to situations beyond his control, Ernie reluctantly found it necessary to resign from his new post. Consequently, a special election was held at the January meeting under the leadership of Election Committee Chairman Bill Hall. Jim Pliett's name had been put into nomination for President, and Dave Evans name had been put into nomination for the post of Director to replace Jim should Jim be elected President. Bill Hall reopened the floor for additional nominations. There being none, there was a

**Fort Wayne
Radio Club
Since 1920**

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Todd Hargis, N9XRO Editor, 492-2138 Jim Pliett, K9OMA President, Bill Stockslager, KF2BF, Vice President, Al Burke, WB9SSE, Secretary 637-1989, Carl Rittenhouse, N9NRO, Treasurer 485-4012, Larry Burke, N9HVP, Communications Manager

motion from the floor to elect Jim and Dave to their respective posts by a vote of acclamation. The motion was seconded, and the floor vote was taken with the result that Jim Pliett was elected to the office of President, and Dave Evans was elected as a Director to replace Jim.

Jim Pliett then took the floor and announced that because of uncertainty of Club membership support in providing the manpower needed to run the Hamfest, the Hamfest date (reservation) at the Fairgrounds had been lost. The Hamfest has been an important source of income to fuel Club activities. Without it we need to develop alternate means of generating income. Jim asked that all members consider means that this might be accomplished and either jot down or voice your ideas to him or any other Official of the Club.

Jim noted that the February meeting will feature a tour of the City Utilities Water Filtration Plant, and the meeting will be conducted from that site. If you have ever wondered what kind of Engineering and technology goes into the task of providing the drinking water that you take for granted, plan to attend next month's meeting and find out. Details of the where and when to meet will be included in the Hamsplatter and will also be announced on the Repeaters as the date approaches.

Following the Business meeting, the Club auction was conducted. Mr. Gerry Bailey donated his services as a professional auctioneer to lead the event.

The meeting concluded at about 21:30 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

OLD TYME CHATTER

This past Sunday Esther told me that I had a LL call waiting. Upon picking up the phone, I heard "W9QR this is W8CZR." What is happening? W9QR Doc Enslen became a silent key a number of years ago. The last I heard of W8CZR, Doc Conley was in a nursing home and not doing well. Could it be that I was hearing signals from a silent key frequency? A voice broke in and said, "Ted, this is Larry Wheeler and I am talking to your old friend W8CZR, who is operating from a Nursing Home in Van Wert. What about the call W9QR? I asked. I knew Larry by the call K9ZCH. Larry told me he had upgraded to Extra and received the Vanity Call of W9QR. Some of you are old enough to remember Doc Enslen being a marker station on the Indiana Phone net, he worked at GE and was in the Headquarters Company of the local National Guard. I didn't think to tell Larry that Doe. W8CZR was also an Extra. I was very pleased to find the Van Wert Radio group had been able to make an installation in the Nursing Home for Doc a life long friend. Congratulations to Larry on the new call.

My present call W9TC was first issued ca. 1920 to a Fort Wayne ham and later to Chicago, then back to Fort Wayne. Larry told about not passing the code the first time up for Extra. I then told him about taking the test at the old Central HS before the FCC examiner. About 35 people assembled for their exams. The FCC man said any for Extra. I held up my hand and was the only one for Extra. He called me to the front and placed the others on hold., gave me the code test and upon passing he gave me the written portion sheet and had me return to my seat. He then gave the remaining ones their code test. I didn't pass the written test and had to return at a later date, after more studying to take the written portion. But it was worth it.

A look at the Authors Whose, Who listing and you will find a FWRC member Luetzelschwab, Carl who we know as K9LA. You can see his column in the current issue of "WORLD RADIO." under the heading of Propagation. The FWRC is very proud to have a local member being published in a national magazine.

While watching the "911", TV program this week. I was reminded of a former FWRC member Doctor Joe Gardner whose present call is K7CI. Joe was the head of the Geological Dept. IUPUI. While serving in the Coast Guard, Joe received an honor award for performing a tracheotomy on a man

who was choking. He then inserted the empty barrel of a ballpoint pen in the opening. On the 911 program the same operation was performed on an 89-year-old man who was a passenger on a airplane flying at 35,000 feet. The man had choked on a piece of meat and the Heimlich treatment did not work. Two doctors who were on board then performed a tracheotomy. Next we see a picture of the man's home in England taken several years later. Of course I recognized a beam antenna by the house. The next frame was a view of ham shack and the man was operating a straight key. Many QSL's on the wall. You can learn from watching a few TV programs. I was able to help a large man a few years back using the Heimlich method. This was at Hall's on the Lima Road where several ham friends and I were waiting for a table.

Listening on our local repeater and heard several visitors, whom I assumed, were from Oakland CA. They were speaking Ebonics. "Where u at? U no?"

Now to our history. The theory of crystal operation was not understood at the time of its discovery, nor is it completely known even today. The important thing was that the operation

was a distinct and revolutionary departure from all other methods. Its simplicity, its cheapness, and above all its sensitivity caused it to reach a high degree of perfection very quickly, and in a relatively short while it was in use at nearly every amateur station. Throughout the approximately ten years of almost universal amateur use of the crystal detector, it served two useful purposes: it tided over the period while the audion was being perfected and before its full potentialities were discovered; and at the same time it was sufficiently efficient and effective to provide a great uplift to amateur radio by elevating the performance standards of the amateur stations of that day.

The crystal detector was a fundamental factor, as well, in the gradual change, which was taking place in the character of amateur radio. The indeterminate period of the first decade of the new art was slowly crystallizing. In the place, it became definite that there was to be an amateur radio. The art of radio had shown its ability not only to attract but also to hold the hobbyists engaged in its pursuit. There was a change in the character of these hobbyists, as well. Radio Amateurs were no longer primarily experimenters, although such actives still occupied a considerable part of their time; instead, they were becoming interested in radio primarily for the sake of communication. Their equipment was sufficiently advanced and powerful by this time to enable them to converse pleasantly with each other over appreciable distances, and some of them found more of thrill in doing that than they did out of merely getting the apparatus to working. This phase of the hobby began to interest those who had no real desire for experimentation alone, and in consequence the number of amateur stations in operation began to grow markedly. There developed two quite distinct classes of amateurs -- those experimentally inclined, and those primarily interested in communication.

The art was big enough to hold fascination for all.

73 Ted

Letters to the Editor

Amateur Radio NEEDS a dedicated NATIONAL EMERGENCY frequency!

Have you ever been traveling and come upon a severe vehicle accident requiring immediate EMERGENCY "life-saving" assistance or an imminent need to report a dangerous road hazard? You begin calling for help on ALL the listed repeaters to discover you can't bring up any of the repeaters. Or no one is monitoring the ONLY repeater that you can key up. Most repeater guides do not annotate THE DOMINANT or wide-area coverage repeaters. Often I found many of the listed repeaters may NOT even be operational, the PL tones are wrong, or not listed at all. All of this assumes that you have a repeater guide with you during your travels! I've blindly called on the National Calling frequency (146.520 MHz) for help to only get silence.

While commuting home from Milwaukee in a winter blizzard making Interstate-43 a single lane snow covered slippery mess, I spotted three occupied vehicles in the ditch. I tried in vain to raise any HAM on many area repeaters adjacent to I-43. As typical no one was monitoring.

During major holiday weekends I've found the CB REACT groups monitoring channel 9 and 19, but seldom do I find this type of effort on HAM radio except in California. From

San Jose, Sacramento, and Fresno to the Bakersfield grade in the San Joaquin Valley, a stretch of hundreds of miles, local Hams link many two meter repeaters and run a 24 hour Travelers NET covering most of Interstate-5 and Highway 99. They provide updated weather information, road conditions, and EMERGENCY reporting access to traveling Amateur's. This is an outstanding service but it is only good if you know the repeater frequencies used in the link.

Part 97.1.a - states that part of Amateur Radio's CHARTER is "EMERGENCY communications" and yet we have NO special frequency to assist "everyday local EMERGENCIES." Part 97 Rules specifies certain band spectrum for beacons, simplex/QRP, CW, satellite, and repeater operations. But there is NO SPECIFIC EMERGENCY frequency in Part 97.

I propose that 146.550 MHz FM be made the United States Amateur Radio NATIONAL EMERGENCY (simplex) FREQUENCY! ["EMERGENCY communications" I define as communications concerning the immanent peril to human life or loss of personal property. Communications concerning hazards to the public's safety that may cause a loss of life or property.]

Other communications services have a specific EMERGENCY calling frequency or channel. Such as CB has channel nine (27.065 MHz), boaters have Marine VHF channel sixteen (156.800 MHz), the International Maritime Distress frequency is 2182 kHz, and the Aviation EMERGENCY frequency is 121.500 MHz.

The 146.550 MHz was selected for this effort due to accommodating most old and new 2-meter transceivers. This frequency is not, typically, a repeater frequency or in the satellite, CW, or

beacon operational areas. Local area repeaters (on 6m, 2m, 220, 440, etc.) could monitor this SINGLE frequency with an auxiliary receiver. When a signal is received on 146.550 MHz, with either the EMERGENCY PL tone (recommended 100.0 Hz) or a DTMF tone of at least three seconds (recommended DTMF #0), i.e. LTZ, long-term-zero, the repeater could automatically re-transmit the received audio through a local repeater. This would alert monitoring Hams that a need of immediate assistance is being requested on 146.550 MHz.

Amateur's in rural areas using a scanner or a simple crystal monitoring receiver could detect an EMERGENCY transmission on 146.550 MHz. This rural HAM could then render assistance separate from any repeater service. This frequency gives ALL of Amateur Radio (and SWL's) a single focal point frequency across the USA to use in an effort to get or render immediate EMERGENCY HELP!

The traveling Amateur would NO longer need repeater guides or repeater PL knowledge to get EMERGENCY "life-saving" assistance. Just a FM transceiver that can transmit on 146.550 MHz.

The 2-meter band is the MOST logical beginning for this, type of dedicated, EMERGENCY frequency as 2 meters is the most Commonly used HAM band with nearly all scanners covering this frequency, the most hand-held, and mobile transceivers in Amateur operation.

This single EMERGENCY frequency (with PL tone) could be pre-Programmed into one of your transceiver memories allowing easy and quick access. This would also eliminate the dangerous operation of trying multiple repeater frequencies and PL tones while driving down the highway.

Soon an EMERGENCY FREQUENCY Petition for Rulemaking will be sent to the FCC, Washington DC. This Petition will need ALL our Support to get this NATIONAL Amateur Radio EMERGENCY FREQUENCY accepted into the Part 97 Rules. Support this NPRM it could save your life.

Dale R. Kubichek, N6JSX /9

January 16, 1997 (Thursday Night)

I have served as an Official Bulletin Station (OBS) for the Indiana Section of the Central Division since November of 1994. For those who are not aware, the purpose of this assignment is to copy and disseminate the WIAW ARRL bulletins to those hams who may not have the opportunity to catch up on the news in between issues of the QST magazine. These bulletins cover various topics such as propagation, satellites, latest callsigns issued and general amateur radio news. The signal is transmitted from WIAW station in Newington, Connecticut. The signal mode varies with the times posted in the QST magazine, such as the January 1997 issue on page 101. Modes used are CW, RTTY, AMTOR or ASCII, which are broadcasted several times each day. I normally copy the RTTY or AMTOR modes and save them on the computer disk.

These bulletins are then usually read on one of the Whitley County ARES net conducted on Wednesday evenings at 1915 hours local time. These bulletins are also placed on the Whitley County Amateur Radio Club packet mailbox for those who have packet. There are numerous OBS throughout our state doing the same thing for their local areas.

I just happened to be copying the WIAW bulletins at 2100 hours local

time on the frequency of 7097.1M (that M is for measured frequency). I took a couple hits that garbled the text on RTTY so continued on to copy the AMTOR mode. Roger/N9QCL also joined in and was copying the bulletins, while at the same time we were both chatting away on VHF packet. When the bulletins finished I just happened to start dialing down the band and on about 7076.5M I picked up this LSB voice.

Now most hams are going to say, so what, LSB voice is used everyday in the ham world, no big deal! But as I listened to the callsign there seemed to be a familiar ring to the voice. The station then claimed to be transmitting from Aruba with a callsign of P40WA. Something sure seemed to click here but I could not put my finger on it yet. In the meantime I had asked Roger to drop down to the frequency and listen. There was even mention of a 160M CQ WW meter contest operation pending. There was talk about plans to take a sailboat trip around the sights and scenes of the island the next day. The voice was heard to say that the significant other was not operating and she was reading and shopping along with laying in the sun and the fact it was quite warm.

Then all of a sudden the cat was let out of the bag! On a following transmission when the P40WA station stated the QSL MANAGER was K9UWA, whoa, wait a minute here fellow ham fans! I know that call, a quick check of the call book confirmed the fact and revealed the station was none other than a local HOOSIER from the Fort Wayne area. Then I told Roger, wait a minute, we just copied the WIAW DX bulletin a few minutes earlier, a quick search of the disk, revealed the facts on bulletin ARLD003, one part of which was extracted and quoted below.

It was just a few minutes more and John/K9UWA, alias P40WA, jumped

off 40 meters and headed for the 160-meter land. Now we do not know what happened to Jean/N9PXF, but from the conversation monitored above it appeared obvious, ARUBA and DX were not the only activities we will be hearing about in the forthcoming months!

ARUBA, P4. MIKE, K4PI WILL BE ACTIVE AS P49I FROM JANUARY 22 THROUGH 28. HE WILL ALSO BE ACTIVE IN THE CQWW 160M CONTEST, AND WILL BE QRV BEFORE AND AFTER THE CONTEST ON CW ON THE LOWER AND NEWER BANDS. QSL VIA K4PI. ALSO LOOK FOR JOHN, K9UWA, AND JEAN, N9PXF, TO BE ACTIVE AS P40WA FOR THE CQWW 160M CW CONTEST. QSL BOTH CALLS VIA K9UWA.

Donald Evilsizor, KA9OWC

On the outside the new Electromagnetic radio emissions radiation rules look to be another unenforceable poorly written FCC blunder being stuffed onto Amateur Radio. But I see a more sinister angle to these rules evolving that could eventually put an end to our hobby in urban America. Why such a rash statement by me?

When the FCC included Amateur Radio into this NEW radiation rule the FCC (a government entity) by de-facto has implied that the FCC considers Amateur Radio a potential source of HARMFUL environmental radiation, consequently, a public health concern.

Now that the FCC has included Amateur Radio operations (over 50 watts power) into this radiation rule the door has swung WIDE open for disgruntle anti-HAM or anti-antenna neighbors that want to shut down their HAM radio neighbors! How? A neighbor observes a HAM putting up

(or modifying) his station antennas. That neighbor could require the HAM to provide a (or updated) radiation pattern data. This requirement has NOT been written into the new radiation rule but with the potential health risk door being opened a court or city council mandated disclosure requirement will be coming. The good news is that the FCC has not defined the method or technical quality of these antennas radiation patterns yet. Once defined these radiation pattern tests may be very expensive to obtain.

The next step in this process will be by suing a HAM operator for damages in contributing or causing a neighbor's cancer, tumor or rare disease attack. The burden of proof will be on the HAM to prove otherwise. Remember that the FCC by creating this radiation rule has stated that a radiation health concern may exist. A lawsuit on this basis could easily bankrupt most Hams and allow insurance companies to skyrocket HAM home owners/renters insurance policies.

These all sound like an extremist screaming wolf but when lawyers or insurance companies see an angle to increase rates or create law suits guess what happens?

Who benefits from this new rule? Do-gooders will say the public but I'm more cynical - how about commercial radio interest like the LEO project that wants our HAM bands? Even the FCC (That are governed by politically appointed Commissioners) made some big dollars when they sold off our old 220-222 MHz. band to the commercial world.

The ARRL has said they will monitor this FCC rule and act in Amateur Radio's best interests. I will make one statement on that "remember the ARRL's actions in preserving our 220 band? DO NOT JUST rely on the ARRL even if they state they do not want Amateur's to write their

Congresspersons like they did during the 220 fiasco!" Write your Congresspersons and tell them your opinions and objections. PRB-1 is nothing compared to the potential implications that this new rule will levy on HAM radio!

Dale R. Kubichek, N6JSX /9

For Sale

- Icom H7737 with power supply PS-55. \$995.00
- Contact Ken N9IGY 436-7130
- Icom IC-02AT with BP7 battery pack, wall charger, and instruction manual. \$150.00
- Contact Francis Barr W9ETT 637-6479
- Ham-Ready House located far southeast city for springtime possession. Antennas meet all subdivision covenants and restrictions. Grandfathered 8-band roof mount vertical with resonant counterpoise, long wire, ½ inch copper ground system. 4 bedroom 1 ½ bath. 11 rooms total with workshop
- Contact Bob W8ST 447-5665 evenings for information or appointment.


Wanted

- I am writing a computer program to do calculations for different antennas. I would like suggestions on what types of antennas to include and the formulas for the antennas. I would like suggestions for any other ham radio related math to include in this program. Please contact Noel Schutt KB9JHS at 456-9061 or on the W9INX PBBS or through e-mail "NRSchutt@Juno.com"

All ads will run on a month by month basis. Please advise me if you need your ad run more than one month or you wish to extend your ad another month. My phone number is (219) 492-2138.

Thanks and 73s,

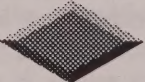
Todd Hargis N9XRG



HOW ABOUT A TICKET FOR THE FWRC DAYTON HAMVENTION BUS TRIP. TICKETS ARE \$15.00 A PERSON. A GUARANTEED GOOD TIME. DON'T DELAY, MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW BY CALLING KEVIN ADAM N9IWW AT 490-7312

Visit the Fort Wayne Radio Club on the World Wide Web
Address: <http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/n9xrg/radio.htm>

Do you have an interesting article or cartoon which you can contribute to the Hamsplatter? Do you have some spare equipment collecting dust that you might want to sell? If so please contact me, Todd Hargis N9XRG, at 492-2138 (leave detailed message and phone number if no answer) or I can also be reached via e-mail at "toddhargis@hotmail.com".



March Hamsplatter Deadline: *March 1, 1997*

Membership Data: (Give this form to the treasurer at any FWRC meeting or mail to the address below)

Name _____ Call _____ Class: N T G A AE

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Work Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Shall we list your address and phone number in the membership roster Y N ?

Are you presently an ARRL member Y N ?

Membership Term: (Jan - Dec) (Jul - Dec)

Family Membership: \$21.00yr \$10.50yr immediate family (list all callsigns)

Regular Membership: \$15.00yr \$7.50yr licensed member

Student Membership: \$6.00yr \$3.00yr full time student

Associate Membership: \$15.00yr \$7.50yr unlicensed member

Your Check Number _____ please pay by check. It's easier for both of us.

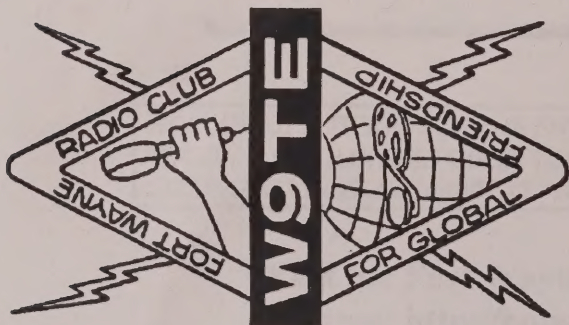
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February

1997

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